

# ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN DUSKY SALAMANDER

## Species at Risk

In Canada \*, the Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander is found in two disjunct areas. Carolinian population in Ontario is endangered and Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population is threatened.

The Allegheny Mountain Dusky can be identified by a stripe that runs along the middle of its back from its head to its tail. This stripe can vary in colour from a brown, red or orange. Within the stripe there is usually a series of darker coloured chevrons or “V” shapes. Another distinguishing feature is a light coloured line that runs from the eye to the mouth. The tail is round at the base and thin. This salamander may be mistaken for the common Red-back Salamander or a close relative, the Northern Dusky Salamander. \*see reverse

The Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander is found in or near to springs, brooks, waterfalls or ground water seeps. This salamander is known to be somewhat terrestrial during the warmer months of the year.

This salamander eats insects and benthic invertebrates. Some predators include small mammals, snakes, other salamanders and birds. Major threats to this species include loss of forests, contamination or loss of flow in ground water seeps, and barriers affecting movement patterns. Such threats occur through farming practices, residential, industrial and commercial development and other human practices.

\*The National Recovery Team for the Allegheny Mountain Dusky is coordinating recovery strategies for both Ontario and Quebec populations.

\*Pictures courtesy of Rob Tervo

\*References: COSEWIC Status Report on the Mountain Dusky Salamander in Canada, 1998

